

## *In this week's Steeple >>>*

- Message from Father Nick
- Tour de Bville
- A Letter from Miriam and Radomir
- Faith Forum
- Rector's Bible Study
- Pub Thrology

# *The Steeple*



September  
2, 2021

## The Weekly Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church

### Easter Blooms Twice

Every Easter, white lilies array the altar at St. Luke's and do so for a few Sundays after the great paschal feast. After a few weeks, however, it is time to offer them to folks to take home and plant, minding that they remember the covenant one enters into when taking a lily home; thou shalt not take home the clay pot as well. There is usually a few of them left over even after a good picking. And so, Margaret usually takes what is left and plants them in the flower beds around the church. You usually must wait an entire year to see one bloom again, however, this week an Easter lily opened up to greet the sun and you guessed it – with its bloom came an alleluia from our dear sexton, along with a few admirers from the neighborhood.

On these long summer afternoons, it is not uncommon for me to look out the window of my office and see folks strolling by - taking in the beauty of Luke's place. Why some even stop and sit for a spell in the garden. And every now and then a flower will appear on the grass just before me, adorning the grave of a loved one. The word that most often comes to mind when people find rest here, is hallowed - for the interchange in noticing the need to lay something down and acquiescing to the impulse is holy and sometimes really hard work.

I am not trying to be presumptuous here but I know that some of you may find yourselves "heavy laden" especially with all that is going on right now - so much so that even the offer of rest may seem like a luxury. I've been there and have known how unbelievably hard it is to break free from difficult cycles. And I've also learned that most of us carry our burdens around like the character Mendoza from the movie *The Mission*. But it doesn't have that way.

Jesus once said, "Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you." I hope you recognize those words as an invitation right now to do what you must. And you know what? "There is always a before and an after. My advice, travel light. Choose only what you need most to see you through." And when you do, stop to smell the flowers and remember that Easter comes round even when you don't expect it.

Deep Peace,  
Fr. Nick+

## *Annual Family Promise Fundraiser*

# Tour de Bville Saturday, Oct. 2

This casual, family fun bike ride provides stops at historic and well-known sites along the way. It's not a race, but an easy-going, two-wheel experience of our community.

Support one of St. Luke's key outreach efforts:

- By being a sponsor (Click [HERE](#) for support opportunities)
- By registering and participating in the Tour de Bville (Details in future Steeples)
- By donating directly to Family Promise at:
  - *Family Promise of Washington County – Anchor House*
  - *822 S. Johnstone Ave.*
  - *Bartlesville, OK 74003*



## About Family Promise...

Family Promise is St. Luke's way to help local families transition from homelessness to self-sufficiency. We were one of the first churches in Bartlesville to participate in the program since its start several years ago. And we've continued to provide support despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, which temporarily curtailed in-church housing of homeless families.

Since early 2020, families benefiting from the program have been staying overnight at the limited living accommodations are Anchor House, with supporting churches providing evening meals and household necessities. While at Anchor House, the adult members of the family are counseled in goal-setting, finding employment, furthering their education, budgeting, job retention and assistance with other issues that have contributed to their current situation. School-age children attend local schools.

Just recently, St. Luke's made its garage apartment rental property available to a graduate of Family Promise who otherwise would not have found suitable, affordable housing for herself and her young daughter.

Dear Friends,

Oh, how we miss St. Luke's and all of you! We keep thinking of the wonderful celebration that you gave us on our last Sunday, beginning during the service with Fr. Nick's presentation to us of the beautiful crosses, which we are thrilled to wear, followed by a tasty and delightful luncheon party where good wishes abounded, along with descriptions of our funny personality traits and memories of happy and funny events of the past 20 or so years. We are especially grateful to Susie for organizing and collecting from so many of you written memories and photos of memorable and often hilarious activities that we shared during those years. We were touched, honored, surprised and at times doubled over with laughter at some of the recollections and descriptions of our activities and involvement. Many thanks! We will cherish your memories and ours and be forever grateful for you, our friends, and for our wonderful years at St. Luke's.



Although we really miss our friends in Bartlesville, we feel that we have made the right decision in moving; It is so good to be able to spend time with Sophia and Chris and the kids, particularly after not having seen them for a couple of years because of COVID. It took six days driving plus another three waiting in Maine for the results of a COVID test before we could cross the border. We have been in Canada a little over a month and throughout that time have been consumed with cross-border requirements - terminating contracts in the U.S. and initiating others in Canada, often with specified deadlines - and dealing time and again with amazing incompetence on both sides of the border, which just prolongs the whole process. But the end of the tunnel is starting to appear, which has given us time, finally, to write and say "MANY THANKS" and how we miss all of you.

We are hoping that some of you will manage to come and visit.

Our address: 81 Duncan Lane, Apt. 216,

Fredericton, NB,

Canada E3B 9T1

506 262 5520

[radomirpetrovich@gmail.com](mailto:radomirpetrovich@gmail.com)

[hmspetrovich@gmail.com](mailto:hmspetrovich@gmail.com)

Peace and lots of love to all,  
Radomir and Miriam

## **Agape Mission Volunteer Schedule**

**Thursday, September 9**

10:45 am – 1 pm: Fr. Nick Phares, Becky Liehr, Kris Bonner,  
Dolores McCreary, Kathy Zervas, Jim Perrier

12:45 pm – 2 pm: Jeanne Julstrom, Peter Julstrom, Wendy Hall

**Thursday, September 23**

10:45 am – 1 pm: Jeff Birk, Darian Kedy,  
Becky Olsen, Dan Droege, Jo Baughman

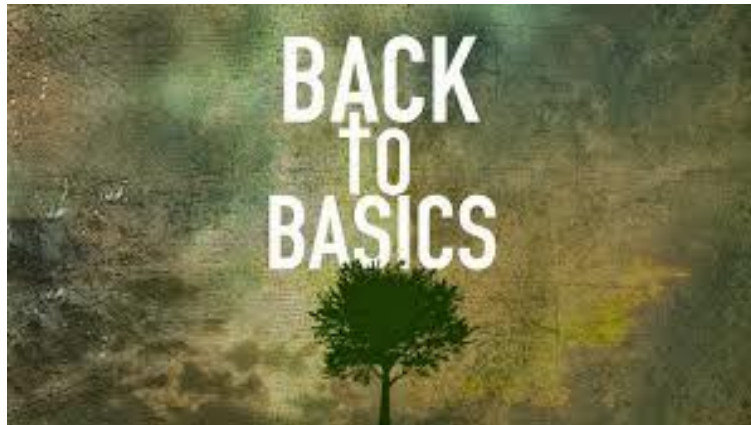
12:45 pm – 2 p.m.: Steve Clark, Steve VanAken, Carol Murphy

## ***St. Luke's Prayer List***

The prayer list can be found in the Sunday bulletin and on the St. Luke's website.

Call or email our office with prayer requests at 918-336-1212 or [StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)

## **Summer Faith Forum Series**



**Sundays 0915– 1015 in Metcalf Hall**

## **Rector's Bible Study**



**Thursday September 16<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m.**

# Pub Theology

Pub Theology is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.

The next meeting will be at **7 p.m. Thursday, September 23rd at Crossing 2nd.**

What is 'Pub Theology'? It's a time to gather informally and talk about different subjects around our core values of faith. What feeds your faith? Where did you see Jesus this week?

What literature are you reading that has had some inspiration for you?

A host of topics are brought up and discussed over drinks and appetizers.

(We pay our own tabs). There is usually a facilitator to throw out topics for discussion.

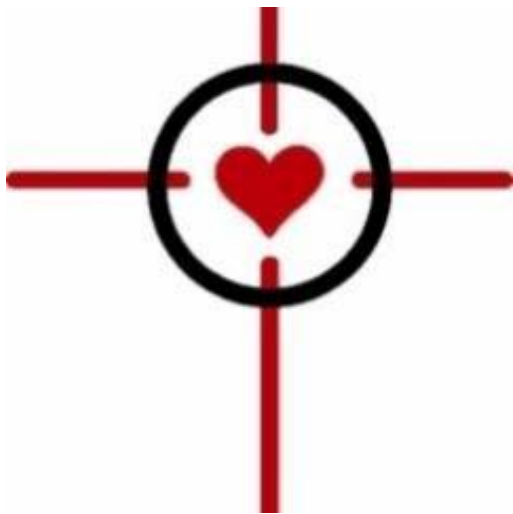
No politics, no gossip, and what is discussed in Pub Theology that is personal stays in the group. Respect the dignity of every person. It's a fun and relaxed time to get to know each

other. Call the church office and let us know if you will be joining us

so we can have enough tables set up at Crossing 2nd.

If you have any questions, contact Fr. Nick, Penny Williams, or Nancy Megee.

We will be happy to share. Let's share some theology!



## CONCERN Needs

**CONCERN is in need of the following items: Ramen Noodles, Sugar, Tea Bags, Complete Pancake Mix, Jiffy Mix, Toothbrush Kits, and Deodorant.**

**Also, believe it or not, Thanksgiving is just around the corner. Please consider offering a contribution towards our annual fundraiser for Thanksgiving Pies. Please make your check out to St. Luke's and in the memo write Thanksgiving Baskets.**

# Alert on solicitations...

Be aware – No one from St. Luke’s will request gift cards or other monetary support through email. If you receive such a message in your email, it is spam. All financial requests/special appeals at St. Luke’s go through normal channels and any special requests will be made by phone or in person.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries, September 2 - 9

### Birthdays

Annabelle Droege 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Harold Borg 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Nancy Warring 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Glenda Garrison 4<sup>th</sup>  
Mark Peterson 5<sup>th</sup>  
Teresa Phares 6<sup>th</sup>  
Sarah Winn 6<sup>th</sup>  
Emma Sutton 8<sup>th</sup>  
Katie Todd 9<sup>th</sup>

### Anniversaries

Ed and Sydney Beasley 2<sup>nd</sup>  
David and Darian Kedy 5<sup>th</sup>

If your or a loved one’s name doesn’t appear on the list, please email or call the office, and we will add your birthday or anniversary!

### St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Contacts:

The Reverend Nick Phares, Rector  
269-788-7063; [RevPhares@outlook.com](mailto:RevPhares@outlook.com)

Dolores McCreary, Choir Director/Organist  
918-397-4828 [dolomc37@gmail.com](mailto:dolomc37@gmail.com)

Keeli Droege, Christian Education Coord.;  
918-697-8509; [keelidroege@gmail.com](mailto:keelidroege@gmail.com)

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church  
210 East 9<sup>th</sup> St., Bartlesville, OK  
74003

Email:  
[StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com](mailto:StLukesBartlesville@outlook.com)

## St. Luke’s Vestry Members

- Dan Droege, Sr. Warden – [dbdcomm.2@gmail.com](mailto:dbdcomm.2@gmail.com) 918-331-7936
- Doug McIver, Jr. Warden – [dmciver@susandickcpa.com](mailto:dmciver@susandickcpa.com) 785-342-4328
- Jo Baughman – [jybokla@aol.com](mailto:jybokla@aol.com)
- Karole Cozby – [kscozby916@gmail.com](mailto:kscozby916@gmail.com)
- Chad Ellis – [w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:w.chadwick.ellis@gmail.com)
- Karen Lewey – [kgrammy07@yahoo.com](mailto:kgrammy07@yahoo.com)
- Penny Williams – [oklaborn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oklaborn@sbcglobal.net)
- Nancy Woods – [Nancywoods120@gmail.com](mailto:Nancywoods120@gmail.com)
- Steve Van Aken – [scvanaken@sbcglobal.net](mailto:scvanaken@sbcglobal.net)
- Nancy Warring – [newarring@cityofbartlesville.org](mailto:newarring@cityofbartlesville.org)
- Katherine Powell – [kmpbmp48@gmail.com](mailto:kmpbmp48@gmail.com)
- Nancy Megee – [sc4me81@yahoo.com](mailto:sc4me81@yahoo.com)

Sunday’s altar flowers are given by Jim and Becky Liehr:  
“In loving memory of John and Emily Liehr and John and Emily Sapp”